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1: J Toxicol Sci. 1980 Dec;5 Suppl:33-57.

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[Intravenous chronic toxicity of lentinan in rats: 6-month treatment and 3-month recovery (author's transl)]

[Article in Japanese]

Shimazu H, Takeda K, Onodera C, Makita I, Hashi T, Yamazoe T, Kokuba Y, Tanigawa H, Ohkuma S, Shinpo K, Takeuchi M.

Chronic toxicity of lentinan was studied in male and female JCL : SD rats. Lentinan was given intravenously into tail vein. Dosage levels employed were 0 (5% mannitol), 0.01, 0.1, 1 (with or without dextran), and 10 mg/kg/day for 6 months in a volume of 1 ml/100 g body weight. After 6 months, the treatment was discontinued and a recovery study was performed for 3 months. Rats receiving 10 mg/kg had redness and necrosis of the tail, the treatment was stopped at week 5, and the rats were sacrificed. Rats receiving 1 mg/kg showed redness of the ear, tail, and scrotum, which was remarkable in the 2nd and 3rd months. Body weight gains were not adversely affected. Laboratory examinations revealed an increase in leukocyte count, decreases in differential eosinophil count and platelet count, and an increase in serum beta-globulin level in drug-treated rats. At autopsy after 6 months, rats from the drug-treated groups had pulmonary hemorrhage and enlargements of the spleen and mesenteric lymph nodes. Histologic changes attributable to treatment include (1) activation of reticulo-endothelial system such as small epithelioid cell nodule in the liver, spleen, and mesenteric lymph nodes, and mobilization of Kupffer cells; (2) arteritis in various organs, especially notable in the spleen, testis, and epididymis; (3) hemorrhage in the lung; and (4) hypospermatogenesis. All these changes described above had a propensity to recover. The maximum no effect level was estimated to be less than 0.01 mg/kg in the present study in male and female rats.

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